

REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated January 26, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11, 13-15, and 17-18, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as allegedly being anticipated by Yamada '483 (U.S. Pat. No. 5,927,483); and rejected claims 12 and 19, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamada '483 in view of Amari '083 (U.S. Pat. No. 6,603,083).

The Examiner also objected to the Drawings, for allegedly missing a reference numeral, and objected to the Specification as containing minor informalities.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 10, 14, and 18, to provide a clearer presentation of the claimed invention. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, claims 1-20, are currently presented for examination of which claims 1, 10, 14, and 18 remain as the independent claims.

Applicants have also amended the Specification to correct the various informalities contained therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the immediate withdrawal of the objection to the Specification.

Applicants have also submitted Replacement Drawings for FIGS. 8, 9 that include the missing reference numerals. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the immediate withdrawal of the objection to the Drawings.

Applicants traverse the prior art rejections of the claims, under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b), 103(a) for the reasons presented below.

I. Prior Art Rejections Under §102(e) & §103(a).

Independent claim 1, as amended, positively recites that a push button is secured to the outer wall by an arm and is configured to overlap the arm in which the arm is elastically deformable to move. Such features are amply supported by the embodiments disclosed in the Specification. (*See, e.g.*, Specification: page 11, line 9 - page 12, line 19; FIGs. 4-7). As indicated in the citations to the Specification, the advantages of such features include the reduction of the space necessary for setting the push button. In fact, by virtue of such features, the push button unit can be so compact that it can be provided on a palm rest. (*See, e.g.*, Specification: page 12, lines 16-18).

Unlike the present invention, none of the references of record, including Yamada '483, teach the claimed combination of elements recited by amended claim 1. In particular, the Yamada '483 reference teaches the use of a push button 2 comprises a fixing portion 2a for fixing the push button 2, a pair of push button portions 2b for a user to use and four arm portions 2c. The arm portions 2c are connected to each other by substantially semi-circular flange portions 2d interposed therebetween and the push button portions 2b are provided on the respective flange portions 2d. The arm portions 2c are configured to elastically deform when the push button portions 2c are pushed by the user. (*See, e.g.*, Yamada '483: col. 3, lines 7-25; FIG. 2).

Most notably, however, the Yamada '483 reference also discloses that the flange portions 2d – *not* the elastically deformable arm portions 2c – overlap the push button portions 2b. As clearly shown in FIG. 3, the rear faces 2g of push button portions 2b are situated between the arm portions 2c so that the arm portions 2c project from the periphery of the push button portions 2b without overlapping the push button portions 2b. As such, Yamada '483 clearly fails to teach a push button that is configured to overlap the elastically deformable arm, as required by claim 1.

Equally important is the fact that, by virtue of its disclosures, the Yamada '483 reference is directly antithetical to the present invention. That is, the Yamada '483

configuration manifests disadvantages that the present invention is directed to overcome. Specifically, the present Specification identifies that a problem with conventional push button configurations is that the arms supporting the button body to the housing substantially project from the periphery of the button body making the push button configuration large. (*See, e.g.*, Specification: page 2, lines 14-18). This is exactly the configuration employed by Yamada '483.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that the Yamada '483 reference is incapable of teaching the claimed combination of elements recited by claim 1. As such, Yamada '483 cannot be relied upon, in any way, to anticipate claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants request the immediate withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claim 1.

Moreover, because remaining independent claims 10, 14, and 18 recite analogous features to those recited by claim 1, claims 10, 14, and 18 cannot be anticipated by Yamada '483 for at least the same reasons presented with regard to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants also request the immediate withdrawal of the §102(e) rejections of claim 10, 14, and 18 as well.

Furthermore, none of the remaining references of record, including Amari '083, do anything to cure the noted deficiencies of Yamada '483. For example, there is nothing in the Amari '083 reference that teaches or suggests a push button that is configured to overlap the elastically deformable arm, as required by claim 1.

As such, none of the references of record, whether taken alone or in reasonable combination, teach the claimed combination of elements required by claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is clearly patentable over the references of record. In addition, because claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, claims 2-9 are patentable by virtue of dependency as well as for their additional limitations.

And, because remaining independent claims 10, 14, and 18 recite analogous features to those recited by claim 1, claims 10, 14, and 18 are also patentable for at least the reasons presented with respect to claim 1. In addition, because claims 11-13 depend

from independent claim 10, claims 15-17 depend from independent claim 14, and claims 19-20 depend from independent claim 18, also patentable claims 11-13, claims 15-17, and claims 19-20 are patentable by virtue of dependency as well as for their additional recitations. Accordingly, Applicants request the immediate withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections of claims 12 and 19.

II. Conclusion.

All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of pending claims 1-20.

Applicants' Counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975, Order No. 008312-0308433. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute FIGS. 8 and 9 of the originally-filed Drawings with the Replacement Drawings attached hereto.